

6

TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

YOUNG MEN'S

Mercantile Library Association,

OF

CINCINNATI.

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JANUARY 2, 1855.

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CINCINNATI:

PUBLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATION.

1855.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 1854.

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HENRY D. HUNTINGTON.....	PRESIDENT,
CHAS. R. FOSDICK.....	VICE PRESIDENT.
ANDREW B. MERRIAM.....	CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.
CALEB P. MARSH.....	RECORDING SECRETARY.
ROSS CHENOWETH.....	TREASURER.
JOHN H. PORTER.....	} DIRECTORS.
A. MITCHELL HALL.....	
GEO. H. CHRISTIAN.....	
HORATIO N. HATCH.....	
LEWIS C. HOPKINS.....	

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 1855.

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CHAS. R. FOSDICK.....	PRESIDENT.
A. MITCHELL HALL.....	VICE PRESIDENT.
ANDREW B. MERRIAM.....	CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.
LEWIS C. HOPKINS.....	RECORDING SECRETARY.
CALVIN W. THOMAS.....	TREASURER.
H. N. HATCH.....	} DIRECTORS.
S. M. MURPHY.....	
ELPALET LORING.....	
H. M. JOHNSTON.....	
FRANK LEWIS.....	

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING.

LIBRARY ROOM Y. M. M. LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, }  
TUESDAY, P. M., January 2, 1855. }

In the temporary absence of the President, the meeting was called to order by the Vice President, CHARLES R. FOSDICK, Esq.

Minutes of the last meeting were read, and, on motion, approved.

The Chair stated that, in accordance with a resolution of the Board, the polls would open at 3 o'clock, and close at 8 P. M., when the Annual Report of the Board of Directors, and the Annual Report of the Treasurer, would be presented, and such other business transacted as might come before the meeting.

The Nominating Committee, through its Chairman, DUDLEY HALL, Esq., presented their report and nominations, which were, on motion, accepted.

S. LESTER TAYLOR, Esq., presented an Independent Ticket, when the meeting proceeded to ballot for officers to serve during the ensuing year.

The Polls closing at 8 o'clock, and the Tellers withdrawing for counting of votes,

The Annual Report of the Board of Directors was submitted by the President, and on motion of R. M. W. TAYLOR, Esq., was unanimously accepted.

The Annual Report of the Treasurer was then presented, and on motion, accepted.

On behalf of the Board, the Recording Secretary, C. P. MARSH, Esq., presented a brief extract from the official minutes of the Directory, with Resolutions concerning the death of CHARLES G. SPRINGER, Esq. On motion of R. M. W. TAYLOR, Esq., the Resolutions were unanimously adopted as the sense of the meeting, and ordered to be placed on the permanent records.

On motion of JOHN W. HARTWELL, Esq.:

*Resolved*, That the Annual Reports just read, be published for the use of members, and for distribution.

On motion of JAMES LUPTON, Esq.:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this meeting be presented to the retiring Board of Directors, for their valuable and efficient services.

The Tellers declaring their readiness to report, the President announced the election of officers, as in preceding schedule.

The retiring President, Mr. HUNTINGTON, before leaving the Chair, offered a few remarks:

He said, there were times when silence was more expressive than words—there were thoughts, which the stifling emotions of the heart would not permit us to utter. It was on such an occasion, and with such feelings, that he attempted to say a few words.

With the announcement just made, his official connection, extending through a period of six years, had forever closed. During this time, he had been successively honored by his fellow members with every office in their gift, save one. For these oft-renewed manifestations of generous confidence, he desired to return sincere and heartfelt acknowledgments; with assurances, that in after life he should cherish as among his happiest recollections, the many pleasant hours of a long term of service.

It had been his privilege to be officially connected with the Association during a most eventful and auspicious period in its history—a period which had witnessed the growth of its member-roll from fifteen hundred to about twenty-five hundred, and its library from eight thousand to fifteen thousand; the increase in one case being about sixty-five, and in the other ninety per cent. For such an unexampled measure of prosperity and progress, much was due to the efficiency and zeal which had always characterized its official management. Where all had done well, it might seem invidious to particularize; but he could not refrain from mentioning the names of RANNEY, and SPRINGER, and ELLIS, and WATTS, and SHAW, and TAYLOR, and HARTWELL, and HINMAN, and DODD, and WILBY, and WILLIAMS, and STEDMAN, and FABIAN, and BUTLER, and LUPTON, as among those which were honorably and indissolubly connected with its history. Deserving of special mention, was the honored name of JAMES LUPTON. None but those who had served with him, could properly appreciate the ardent devotion and self-sacrificing labors of this faithful officer and unwavering friend.

In thus taking official leave, and returning to the ranks, Mr. H. trusted that his zeal would know no languor, and his interest in the success and prosperity of the Young Men's Mercantile Library Association would suffer no abatement.

The President elect, Mr. CHARLES R. FOSDICK, was then conducted to the Chair, and in a few appropriate remarks returned his acknowledgments for the distinguished honor conferred upon him, and pledged his earnest endeavors to sustain and advance the high position and interests of the Association.

Mr. LUPTON, in obedience to repeated calls, made a brief pertinent speech, which was well received.

A call being made by gentlemen present, for information of the success of the system of Class Instruction lately adopted, was replied to by L. C. HOPKINS, Esq., Chairman of the Class Committee.

No other business being presented, it was moved and carried that the meeting adjourn.

C. P. MARSH, Recording Secretary.

NOTE.—At a subsequent meeting of the new Board, Messrs. MERRIAM, HATCH, and LEWIS, were appointed a Committee of Publication. Members will receive their copies on application to either of the Committee, or at the Library counter.

## TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT.

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### FELLOW MEMBERS :

Since our last annual meeting another year has been added to the past—another of the periods prescribed by our organic law for a single official term is completed, and your Board of Directors appear before you this evening, to render an account of their stewardship, and to yield back, as they fondly hope, unimpaired, the arduous and responsible trust committed to their charge.

The occasion which has called us together to-night, is one of more than ordinary interest. Our honored Institution has completed its second decade of years. Viewed merely as a mathematical aggregation of months, and weeks, and days, and hours, the twenty years which have passed away since its foundation, can lay no claim to distinction beyond such as would attach to any period of like duration in the world's history; but, when measured by *events*, the generation of the present may safely assume to rank in importance with the century of the past. We live in a favored age—the sun of knowledge is blazing down upon the nations in noon-tide brightness, and collective humanity rejoices in its beams. Among those who venerate antiquity, there are some who maintain that the intellectual “light of other days” has faded, that the era of

great men has passed away. Relatively speaking, this may to some extent be true ; but is it not owing to the fact that the Ideal Man, the impersonation of the century, has himself become great ? The collective wisdom of the present, beyond all question, exceeds the collective wisdom of any past time. As, in the natural world, the meteor derives all its splendor from the surrounding gloom, and is lost amid the solar rays, so in the world of mind, colossal greatness in the few would seem to argue corresponding dwarfishness and paucity in the many. The beacon lights are hidden or extinguished by the rising tide, but their loss is more than supplied by the all pervading phosphorescent glow, which now illuminates the intellectual ocean. A thirst for knowledge, and a widely diffused intelligence, are among the prominent characteristics of the age in which we live. Institutions like our own are among its natural out-growths and developments. To promote and facilitate the great work of intellectual self-culture, has been the primary object in their establishment.

As a pioneer in a great self-educational movement, this Society holds a position of deserved prominence among kindred Institutions of the West, and its success is regarded as a matter of more than local interest. On this twentieth anniversary of its establishment, therefore, this stand point in its career, we may be pardoned in a momentary retrospect; and deeming the occasion a fitting one, your Board offer no apology for prefacing their customary detail of the events and transactions of the year, with a few brief historical reminiscences, compiled from the unpublished annual reports and other authentic sources. The narrow limits prescribed for the Report will admit of the merest outline, only, of the more prominent events.

The YOUNG MEN'S MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION of Cincinnati, was founded on the 18th of April, 1835. At the meeting for organization, held on the evening of that day, at the Engine House on Fourth Street, the following members were present :

L. Lardner, P. Outcalt, W. Parry, J. L. Brown, W. H. Harrison, Edward Dawson, Chas. G. Springer, D. T. Piatt, J. H. Raymond, John W. Ellis, M. Murray, James Wiles, J. D. Thorpe, W. N. Greene, J. R. Mavor, A. M. Bryson, G. W. Kimberly, J. C. Hill, I. D. Wheeler, J. A. Lewis, S. A. Spencer, Jno. P. Tweed, A. M. Paxton, W. R. Smith, R. G. Mitchell, E. Lawrence, Palmer Holland, Wm. Wells, Moses Ranney, G. M. Ayres, J. H. Merriwether, R. Brown, Wm. Watts, C. C. Sackett, D. G. Lockwood, Thos. Merriwether, John C. Macy, Alfred Wood, D. K. Este, Peter Brown, Henry Shaw, Geo. Hough, Leonard Avery, E. Parry, and E. Carter ; in all forty-five.

Of this little band, which composed the nucleus of a now powerful Society, Messrs. W. R. Smith, E. Lawrence, Palmer Holland, Moses Ranney, J. H. Merriwether, Thos. Merriwether, Henry Shaw and Chas. G. Springer—in all eight, are known to have passed from the stage of action.

Messrs. R. G. Mitchell, W. Parry, W. N. Greene, J. R. Mavor, C. C. Sackett, Geo. Hough and E. Parry, are believed to be still living, but have removed from the city. The remainder are still with us, and, with a few exceptions, have continued members and steadfast friends to this day.—Six of the original number, viz : Messrs. Moses Ranney, R. G. Mitchell, I. D. Wheeler, Chas. C. Sackett, Wm. Watts, and Jno. W. Ellis, have been successively honored by promotion to the executive head of the Society, while others have served it acceptably in the several subordinate offices.

The Committee appointed for that purpose, at a previous meeting, reported a Constitution for the government of the Association, which, having been amended, was adopted.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of officers to serve during the unexpired portion of the first official year, ending on the first Tuesday in January, 1836; which resulted as follows :

*President*,-----MOSES RANNEY.  
*Vice Presidents*,-----ELBRIDGE LAWRENCE,  
 " " -----WM. N. GREENE.  
*Treasurer*,-----CHAS. G. SPRINGER.  
*Directors*—S. A. SPENCER, ROBERT BROWN,  
 R. G. MITCHELL, and I. D. WHEELER.

In July of this year, the Board reported subscriptions amounting to about eighteen hundred dollars, for the purchase of books, and for other purposes. A Room for the temporary accommodation of the Society, was procured at an annual rent of one hundred and fifty dollars.

The means of the Association were not such as to warrant the employment of a Librarian and assistants; and all labors necessary to the maintenance of proper order, such as opening and closing the room, cleaning the lamps, &c. were performed by the Directors in person.

In the early autumn, a more convenient and comfortable room was procured in the building on Fourth Street, then occupied by Messrs. Ross & Geyer as a cabinet warehouse. An act of incorporation was advised as having passed the Legislature.

Attention was called to the subject of Lectures, as auxiliary to the objects of the Society; and a course on Commercial and Maritime Law, by J. L. BENHAM, Esq. commended to public favor.

Mr. B. DOOLITTLE was elected Librarian in the month of December, at a salary of two hundred dollars per annum.

At the annual meeting in January, 1836, the same officers were re-elected for a second term.

Nothing note-worthy occurred this year, and from the meagre records it would appear that the Association made but feeble progress in any of the elements of strength and prosperity.

Pending a proposed amendment to the Charter, the following gentlemen were elected as Directors merely, at the annual meeting in 1837: JOHN W. ELLIS, P. OUTCALT, HIRAM P. WELLS, THOMAS C. SHIPLEY, CHAS. C. SACKETT, WM. WATTS, and ROBERT BROWN.

The amendment to the Charter having been adopted, the Directors tendered their resignations, and at the meeting held July 11th, the following officers were chosen to serve during the unexpired portion of the year:

<i>President,</i> -----	R. G. MITCHELL.
<i>Vice President,</i> -----	G. M. AYRES.
<i>Secretary,</i> -----	WM. WATTS.
<i>Directors,</i> —	HENRY SHAW, P. HOLLAND, S. BRADSTREET.

The first Library Catalogue was published, and numbered about twelve hundred volumes.

The following composed the Board of Officers for 1838:

<i>President,</i> -----	WILLIAM WATTS.
<i>Vice President,</i> -----	PALMER HOLLAND.
<i>Secretary,</i> -----	H. SHAW.
<i>Treasurer,</i> -----	E. PARRY.
<i>Directors,</i> —	P. OUTCALT, GEO. H. BATES, O. ALDRICH.

At the April meeting of this year, the following strange

resolution was offered by Mr. Gallagher; and although pressed with great pertinacity, it was unfortunately lost:

*Resolved*, That any member who shall absent himself "from any stated or quarterly meeting of the Association, "shall be fined in the sum of twenty-five cents; said fine "to be remitted in case of sickness or absence from the "city."

Had this resolution been adopted, and continued in force to this day, your present Board would have found it a most productive source of revenue!

At the October quarterly meeting the following resolution, offered by Mr. G. M. Ayres, was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the Board of Directors be, and they "are hereby instructed to institute an annual celebration "of the commencement and formation of this Association, "at the beginning of next year, by appointing some suit- "able person to deliver an address, with such other cere- "monies as they may deem advisable."

A course of Lectures was delivered this year by Hon. T. Walker, which were well attended.

The annual Election held in January, 1839, resulted as follows:

*President*, ----- I. D. WHEELER.

*Vice President*, ----- JOHN BUCHANAN.

*Secretary*, ----- E. B. HINMAN.

*Treasurer*, ----- G. W. K. BOWLDWIN.

*Directors*,—J. WILES, N. P. IGLEHART, J. PULLAN.

At the quarterly meeting held April 2d, the Board of Directors reported arrangements for the celebration of the fourth anniversary, to take place on the fourth of April, with R. G. Mitchell as orator of the day. It having been

generally understood that the eighteenth, and not the fourth, was the true anniversary, the vote on the acceptance of the report was re-considered, and the same was re-committed, with instructions to change the date of the proposed celebration by making it the eighteenth. A warm discussion thereupon ensued, which resulted in the resignation of the entire Board. The following gentlemen were immediately elected to fill the vacancies thus occasioned :

*President*,-----CHARLES C. SACKETT.

*Vice President*,-----JAMES F. TORRENCE.

*Secretary*,-----W. C. BENTHALL.

*Treasurer*,-----EDWARD SARGENT.

*Directors*,—H. SHAW, M. RANNEY, E. LAWRENCE.

Mr. James Wildy was elected Librarian, vice Mr. Holly, removed.

The subject of establishing a Board of Trade and Chamber of Commerce was agitated on several occasions during the year; Mr. O. Aldrich having first brought the matter before the Association, at its meeting held May 2d. A resolution was adopted, authorizing the calling of a public meeting, which subsequently led to the establishment of that important body. Near the close of the year, an arrangement was entered into, by which the two Institutions were united. This connection continued through a number of years, and was finally dissolved on the completion and occupancy by the Association of its new suite of rooms, in the present College Edifice, in the Fall of 1846.

A handsome tribute was paid to the character and worth of Mr. Henry Shaw, a deceased member of the Board.

At the annual meeting held in January, 1840, the following officers were chosen :

*President*,-----MOSES RANNEY.  
*Vice President*,-----JAMES F. TORRENCE.  
*Secretary*,-----THOMAS SPOONER.  
*Treasurer*,-----WILLIAM WATTS.  
*Directors*,—W. C. BENTHALL, J. THOMAS, W. T. JONES.

The Constitution having been amended, so as to increase the number of Directors to five, Messrs. JOHN W. HARTWELL and ROBERT HOGUE were elected Directors, at the quarterly meeting held April second.

In the spring of this year, the Association removed into rooms in the old Cincinnati College.

A course of Lectures on History was delivered by Dr. Robinson, but the results were by no means flattering.

The following gentlemen composed the Board of Directors for 1841 :

*President*,-----CHARLES DUFFIELD.  
*Vice President*,-----WILLIAM WATTS.  
*Secretary*,-----GEORGE W. JONES.  
*Treasurer*,-----JOHN W. HARTWELL.  
*Directors*,—THOS. SPOONER, L. B. HARRISON, M. R. TAYLOR, C. F. ADAE, W. C. BENTHALL.

At the April meeting a resolution was adopted tendering honorary membership in the Association, to the resident clergy of the city.

The sixth anniversary was commemorated by an address from John C. Vaughan, Esq.

The Constitution was again amended, by creating the office of Corresponding Secretary.

Board of Directors for 1842 :

*President*,----- WILLIAM WATTS.  
*Vice President*,----- JAMES CALHOUN.  
*Corresponding Secretary*,--- R. M. W. TAYLOR.  
*Recording Secretary*,----- JOHN W. ELLIS.  
*Treasurer*,----- JOHN W. HARTWELL.  
*Directors*,—T. SPOONER, J. P. BROADWELL, J. Y. ARMSTRONG, A. DONALDSON, S. P. BISHOP.

Two courses of Lectures were delivered during the autumn of this year, under the auspices of the Association ; one by Prof. John Locke, on the science of Geology, the other, a miscellaneous course, with an introductory by Judge Spencer. The attendance upon both was very small.

The following gentlemen were elected a Board of Directors at the annual meeting in January 1843 :

*President*,----- JOHN W. ELLIS.  
*Vice President*,----- MORGAN EWING.  
*Corresponding Sec'y*,--- R. M. W. TAYLOR.  
*Recording Secretary*,--- GRANVILLE S. WILLIAMS.  
*Treasurer*,----- JOHN W. HARTWELL.  
*Directors*,—W. T. JONES, W. F. IRWIN, W. R. WILLIAMSON, J. H. WILBY, G. T. BROWNING.

It was during this year that the Merchants' Exchange was established, and the nucleus formed of what has since become a powerful organization, under that name. This department was placed in the special charge of Mr. Lewis J. Cist, who, in addition to his duties as Assistant Librarian, opened and kept the first set of Exchange Books, in which were recorded the statistics of the trade and commerce of the city.

A course of Lectures, exclusively by active members of the Association, may be mentioned as an interesting event in the history of the year.

At the annual meeting in January, 1844, the following Board of Officers were chosen :

*President*, ----- JOHN W. ELLIS.  
*Vice President*, ----- MORGAN EWING.  
*Corresponding Sec'y*, -- R. M. W. TAYLOR.  
*Recording Seeretary*, -- GRANVILLE S. WILLIAMS.  
*Treasurer*, ----- JOHN W. HARTWELL.  
*Directors*—R. A. WHETSTONE, JACOB TRABER, R. B. PULLAN, D. B. LUPTON, HENRY PEACHY.

Subscriptions were first made to foreign journals, embracing Willmer & Smith's European Times, Liverpool; and Galignani's Messenger, Paris.

The ninth anniversary was commemorated by an appropriate address from John W. Ellis, Esq. and a Poem by W. D. Gallagher, Esq.

Officers elected January 7, 1845 :

*President*, ----- R. M. W. TAYLOR.  
*Vice President*, ----- JOHN W. HARTWELL.  
*Corresponding Seeretary*, -- A. S. WINSLOW.  
*Recording Secretary*, -- GEORGE T. STEDMAN.  
*Treasurer*, ----- E. B. HINMAN.  
*Directors*—ALBERT G. DAY, F. DONALDSON, J. LUPTON,  
A. R. FOOTE, JOSEPH C. BUTLER.

On Sunday morning, January 18th, the venerated and time honored Cincinnati College was destroyed by conflagration. The Association, driven from its home by this unlooked for occurrence, found a temporary resting

place in rooms near the corner of Fourth and Sycamore streets.

The event, which was deplored at the time as a heavy calamity, resulted most fortunately for the best interests of the Institution ; as it led to the adoption of measures by which it received an impulse that still continues to bear it upward and onward.

Three several propositions were submitted by the Trustees of Cincinnati College, having in view the re-building of the College Edifice. One of these, securing to the Association the ownership in perpetuity of a suite of rooms in the new building, with other important privileges, in consideration of the sum of ten thousand dollars to be paid during the progress of the work, was finally accepted.

The superintendence of this work, in addition to other official duties, devolved extraordinary labors on the new Board ; but the result proved them to be men fully equal to the emergency. During the year, three installments of twenty-five hundred dollars each, were collected by subscription, and paid over to the Trustees, in conformity with the stipulations of the contract.

The annual meeting in January, 1846, resulted in the re-election of the same efficient Board.

The month of September following, witnessed the completion of an undertaking in which so many hopes were centred, and the Association was placed in the proud possession of a home of its own—free from debt or the shadow of incumbrance. A new era had now dawned upon its prospects betokening the bright day of prosperity that has since followed.

For many interesting particulars connected with this enterprise, which constituted the crowning glory of a most

eventful administration, reference is made to the Twelfth Annual Report of the Board of Directors, as published by the Association. The events and transactions of subsequent years are fully detailed in the published reports, and a continuation of this sketch is thus rendered unnecessary.

The following tabular statement is submitted in conclusion, which exhibits at a glance the progressive growth of the Association, as indicated by the Membership List and Library Catalogue at the several periods named:

Month.	Year.	No. of Members.	No. of Volumes.
April	1835	45	none
January	1836	169	767
"	1837	207	913
"	1838	346	1,159
"	1839	480	1,343
"	1840	500	1,660
"	1841	541	1,809
"	1842	550	2,885
"	1843	700	3,299
"	1844	592	3,626
"	1845	625	3,998
"	1846	722	4,250
"	1847	1,007	4,786
"	1848	1,144	6,106
"	1849	1,517	8,195
"	1850	1,697	9,804
"	1851	1,782	11,096
"	1852	1,956	11,769
"	1853	2,157	12,641
"	1854	2,381	13,839
"	1855	2,550	14,841

One of the earliest duties which devolved upon your Board, was the election of a Librarian and Superintendent, and his corps of Assistants.

The post of Librarian has become one of great responsibility, and requires peculiar and varied business qualifications. With entire unanimity, the choice fell on Mr. R. H. Stephenson, who had served the Association acceptably in that capacity, for the two years next preceding.

Mr. W. W. Brooks was at the same time elected Assistant Librarian and Collector, and Master George Morris, Second Assistant Librarian. The Board bear willing testimony to the uniform courtesy of these several officers towards members and introduced strangers, and to their fidelity and zeal in the service of the Association.

The whole number of members enrolled at the date of the last Annual Report was about twenty-four hundred. There have been added during the year :

Life, -----	7
Active, -----	378
Honorary, -----	126
Ex-Officio, -----	16
 In all -----	 527

We have lost in the same time :

By resignation, -----	161
By removal from the city, -----	192
By death, -----	19
 In all, -----	 372

Leaving the net increase for the year 155, and giving in round numbers two thousand five hundred as the present numerical strength of the Association.

A most gratifying evidence is here exhibited, of prosperity and progress in a most important department. The Membership Committee in the Board of Directors, should ever be regarded as emphatically the Committee of Ways and Means. The large additions to our member roll during the past few years, have not been the result of accident, but of systematic, persevering effort.

But much more remains to be accomplished. In such a changing population as ours, frequent accessions will be required to supply inevitable losses occasioned by resignation, removal from the city, and death. There are, doubtless, at this time, in the city, hundreds of young men who are eligible to active membership in the Association, but who have hitherto been without the pale of its influence and privileges. A word spoken in season would induce many such to join our number, and its means of usefulness would be thereby widely extended.

In this connection the Board regret the necessity of once more calling attention to a deeply rooted evil, and which has embarrassed the action of every preceding Directory since the Institution was established; we allude to the delinquent list. Too many of our members have seemed to regard the payment of their annual dues in the light of a forced contribution to a public charity; while others delay compliance with a plain constitutional requirement from inadvertence, or an erroneous belief that no material inconvenience can result from their trifling delinquencies. To all such it would seem unnecessary to say, that the annual dues of members constitute our chief source of revenue; and if the fountain rills are withheld, the stream must dry up. Various measures have from time to time been adopted to correct the evil, but all have failed to accomplish the object.

The experience of the past would seem to justify the recommendation, that future Boards be governed in this matter by the plain intent and meaning of the third article of the Constitution, which provides, as a condition of membership, the payment of "three dollars annually in advance." A persistent refusal to comply with this requirement should be deemed and taken as a resignation, and the name stricken from the list accordingly. Such a course of action would remove all just grounds of complaint on the part of the defaulting member, as the door would remain ever open to welcome his return, and by a re-election and the payment of his dues, his forfeited privileges would be at once restored.

With a full appreciation of its great importance, the subject is commended to the careful consideration of our successors.

The additions to the Library during the year have been as follows :

By purchase, -----	726 vols.
By donation, -----	153
By binding of Periodicals, -----	123
In all -----	<hr/> 1,002

Whole number catalogued at the date of the last Annual Report, thirteen thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine—additions of the year as above, one thousand and two; making a total at this date of fourteen thousand eight hundred and forty-one volumes.

Among the additions of the year we would enumerate : Works of Shakspeare, six volumes, folio, Oxford, 1771. Hume's History of England, six volumes, 4to, London, 1754-1762.

The Stones of Venice, three volumes 8vo, London.  
 Picturesque Illustrations of Buenos Ayres and Monte  
 Video, folio, London, 1820 ; presented by J. P. Broadwell.  
 Views in India, folio, London ; presented by J. P. Broad-  
 well.

Tour along the Ganges, &c. folio, London, 1824 ; present-  
 ed by J. P. Broadwell.

American Journal of Medical Sciences, 8vo, Philadelphia,  
 1828-44, thirty-one volumes.

Smithsonian Contributions, volume six.

Transactions of the American Institute, presented by  
 the Institute, eight vols.

The Association is indebted to the following gentlemen  
 for valuable donations of books :

H. T. Bækwith, Providence, R. I.	2 vols.	B. M. McConkey,.....	3 vols.
H. H. Shipley.....	2 "	Hou. Timothy C. Day,.....	5 "
Hon. D. T. Disney,.....	4 "	M. E. Curwen,.....	3 "
Merc. Lib'y. Co. of Philadelphia, 1	"	Hon. Horace Mann,.....	1 "
N. Y. State Seeretary,.....	1 "	Hon. J. Scott Harrison,.....	7 "
Y. M. Association of Albany, ..	1 "	George M. Finch,.....	1 "
Y. M. Association, of Troy,.....	1 "	Geo. Mills, Richmond, Va.	7 "
Hon. J. W. Forney, Clerk of the		S. P. Hildreth, Marietta, O.	6 "
House of Representatives.....	7 "	W. G. W. Lewis,.....	6 "
Rev. A. A. Livermore,.....	5 "	S. C. Hopkins,.....	8 "
George J. Weed,.....	5 "	T. J. Gallagher,.....	1 "
George H. Christian,.....	6 "	Nelson Cross,.....	2 "
C. S. Williams,.....	8 "	H. E. Symmes,.....	1 "
W. W. Brooks.....	5 "	Smithsonian Institute,.....	5 "
E. V. Brooks, jr.....	7 "	Geo. W. Manypenny, Com'r. of	
Hon. Edward Everett,.....	2 "	Indian Affairs,.....	1 "
A. M. Lesley, Troy, N. Y.....	4 "	Rev. B. P. Aydelotte,.....	1 "
J. H. Porter,.....	2 "	W. Lawrence,.....	1 "
Charles Dexter,.....	2 "	Rev. Samuel R. Wilson,.....	4 "
C. B. Norton, New York,.....	1 "	J. P. Broadwell,.....	3 "
J. D. B. DeBow,.....	2 "	W. T. Coggeshall,.....	1 "
Hon. J. T. Morehead,.....	21 "	Mrs. Douglas,.....	4 "
Joseph C. Ely,.....	2 "	Library Co. of Philadelphia,....	1 "
— Cameron,.....	1 "	G. W. L. Bickley,.....	1 "
E. S. Brooks,.....	1 "	D. T. Ansted, England.....	2 "
W. W. Warden,.....	1 "	San Francisco Mere. Library,..	1 "
J. W. Hurn,.....	1 "	Rev. C. P. M'Ilvaine,.....	1 "
H. F. Baker, .....	1 "	H. Clay Pate,.....	1 "
A. H. McGuffey,.....	2 "	L. A. Hine,.....	1 "
Benjamin Homans,.....	2 "	American Institute,.....	7 "
Hon. S. P. Chase,.....	6 "		

Also, for rare and interesting Pamphlets, to the following gentlemen :

Horace Day, J. H. Porter, A. R. Spofford, Rev. T. A. Mills, Indianapolis, Indiana; Charles Dexter, W. T. Coggeshall, George H. Christian, N. M. Guild, B. M. McConkey, S. B. Elliott, Rev. D. W. Clark, William Wiswell, A. H. M'Guffey, Hon. R. C. Winthrop, H. T. Beckwith, Providence, Rhode Island; N. Y. State Library, Mercantile Library Association of New York; Mercantile Library Association of St. Louis; Mercantile Library Association of Baltimore; Salma Hale, Keene, New Hampshire; Prof. C. C. Jewett, Smithsonian Institute, Crafts J. Wright, E. L. Pierce, George Williams, Rev. J. Cooper, jr. S. N. Pierce, Rev. A. A. Livermore, Josiah Locke, Rev. H. A. Tracy, Smithsonian Institute; Hon. Edward Everett; Mercantile Library Association of Boston; Rev. B. P. Aydelotte, George L. Weed, Hon. Horace Mann, Hon. T. C. Day, Cinc. Gazette Co. J. C. Ely, S. G. Burnet, William S. Sampson, William S. Sampson, jr., George Luckey, E. C. Herrick, New Haven; T. M. Harris, Cambridge, Massachusetts; W. G. W. Lewis, Hon. W. H. Seward, Hon. James A. Pierce; Library Company of Philadelphia; Mercantile Library Company of Philadelphia.

The customary official acknowledgement has been made in each instance, and, in behalf of the Society, the Board would take this occasion to renew obligations for these very acceptable favors.

The additions of the year, although respectable in point of number, have by no means equalled the hopes and anticipations of the Board. No efforts should be spared to make the Library Department what the founders of the Institution designed it should be—the great central point of attraction, and the chief pillar of its glory. All other objects should be made subservient to this.

With a full appreciation of its great importance, and with every wish to meet the expectation of members in this matter, your Board have to regret that the limited means at their command have enabled them to do but little more than keep up with the current publications of the day. It was in contemplation to have made some valuable additions of standard English works, by direct importation, from Bohn's published catalogues; but for reasons above stated, the enterprise, at a late day, was regretfully abandoned.

By the financial estimate for the year 1855, appended to the Annual Report of the Treasurer, and which will be read to you this evening, it will be seen that of the revenue of the year, the large sum of two thousand five hundred dollars can be appropriated to the purchase of books. This should give about three thousand volumes as the additions of the year upon which we have entered.

The other departments of the Association having already attained nearly their maximum of usefulness, a much larger amount of the yearly increasing revenue may hereafter be appropriated to the strengthening of this right arm of its power. With prudent management, we may confidently hope for an average annual increase of three thousand volumes. This will give us, at the end of the next decade, an aggregate of about fifty thousand volumes. In the selection of these added works, which are destined to make our Library one of the prominent attractions of the city, the taste and judgment of future Boards will be called into frequent exercise.

With such glowing anticipations for the future, therefore, we cheerfully assign to our successors in office a much coveted pleasure.

In a Library of circulation, such as ours, with a vast number of readers, it has been found next to impossible to supply the demand for new books, particularly those of a light and ephemeral character. Such publications can add but little to the permanent value of the Library, but are indispensably necessary as a part of the literature of the times. It is the manifest duty of the Board to gratify the wishes of members in this matter as far as practicable; and, with a view to this end, two, three, four, six, ten, and in one instance, (that of Mrs. Mowatt's Auto-

biography of an Actress,) nineteen copies of a single publication, have been placed on the catalogue ; but even this large number has failed to satisfy the popular craving for this description of works.

A new catalogue has long been a pressing want. The one now in use was published in 1846, and embraces but seven thousand two hundred and thirty-four of the fifteen thousand volumes now in the Library. The great cost and labor involved in the undertaking, can no longer avail as excuses for the further postponement of a measure so deeply affecting the best interests of the Society.

As a preliminary step in the work, the circulation of books was suspended for a number of weeks during the summer, in order to ascertain the number of lost and missing volumes. By this means we were enabled to trace and recover all but about six hundred volumes ; and as this number embraces all which have been worn out as well as lost, since the Institution was established, we were both surprised and gratified at the result. The more valuable of the missing numbers have already been supplied by purchase and donation.

For some months past, the Librarian has devoted such hours as could be spared from more active duties, to the arrangement and preparation of the new Catalogue. The work, we are gratified in being able to say, is in such a state of forwardness that it may be completed and put to press during the present quarter.

In this connection, your Board would suggest the expediency of publishing annually, hereafter, a Supplementary Catalogue, in pamphlet form, which shall embrace all the additions of the year. The cost of publication, it is confidently believed, would be reimbursed from the sale,

at a very low price ; while the convenience to members resulting from such a measure could not fail to be appreciated.

The aggregate number of volumes withdrawn from the Library during the year, has been twenty-three thousand, four hundred and seventeen, being a monthly average of two thousand one hundred and twenty-eight, if we deduct the month of June when the circulation was suspended.

In accordance with the recommendation contained in the last Annual Report, our subscription copy of Boydell's Shakspeare, has been placed in appropriate binding.

The Reading Room has received throughout the year its due share of attention. The many additions and improvements from year to year has rendered this department so nearly complete in all its detail, that nothing seemed wanting which could materially add to its attractions. With the present number of desks, and the limited area appropriated to periodical tables, further additions to the news-paper files or magazine lists would seem at present impracticable ; in fact, we do not think a further increase in the number of newspapers either necessary or desirable, as we now have representatives from nearly every important point in the United States and British America, in addition to our extensive list of foreign journals. The foreign list embraces the following :

The London Times, The London News, Journal des Debats, Weser Zeitung, The Dublin Post, The Dublin Nation, The Scotsman, The London Punch, The News and Chronicle, The Economist, Illust. Zeitung, The Examiner, The Spectator, The Athenæum, Willmer & Smith's Times.

American Newspapers, -----	128
Foreign Newspapers, -----	15
	<hr/> 143

In all four daily, two tri-weekly, and nine weekly; making a total of fifteen foreign journals.

The domestic list embraces fifty daily, nine tri-weekly, sixty-seven weekly, and two monthly; in all one hundred and twenty-eight. Our city journals, with a single exception, are all furnished gratuitously by their liberal proprietors.

The magazine and periodical list embraces three weekly, one semi-monthly, forty-one monthly, one bi-monthly, and seventeen quarterly; in all sixty-three, of which seventeen are foreign and forty-six American.

A distinguishing feature of attraction is found in our extensive foreign list. This is maintained at a very heavy annual outlay, and should ever receive the watchful supervision of the Board. Special care should be taken to secure the earliest possible receipt of both newspapers and periodicals, as on this their chief value depends.

If we permit ourselves to be habitually anticipated, even a single day, by more vigilant and enterprising news men, the interests of the department will suffer.

Notwithstanding the many precautions suggested by a long experience, to guard the Association against imposition, the frequent delays, failures, and other causes of complaint, were a source of deep mortification to our immediate predecessors. With a determination, if possible, to correct the evil, the contract of 1853 was annulled at the end of six months, and a new contract was entered into with Mr. E. B. Norton, of New York, for supplying the entire list. Occasional delays and failures are inevitable; but the Board take pleasure in saying, that under this arrangement the interests of the Society have in the main been well served.

Mr. Norton having signified a wish to terminate his engagement at the expiration of the year, your Board, in the month of November last, entered into contracts with Messrs. Willmer & Rogers, and Messrs. C. S. Francis & Co. of New York, respectively—the former to supply the newspapers, the latter the periodicals; and on terms which were mutually satisfactory.

The new arrangement goes into effect with the commencement of the year, and from the known responsibility of the houses named, it is confidently hoped that no interruptions will ensue.

A handsome newspaper Register, or Directory, has been placed in the corridor, which supplies a want that had long been felt, and contributes greatly to the convenience of members and visitors. It was manufactured under the supervision of a member of the Board, by Messrs. Lee & Talbot, of Western Row, and is highly creditable to their mechanical skill.

A most gratifying return for the labor and expense bestowed on this department, is found in the increased interest of members. Throughout the day the attendance is very large, and during the evening the Room is thronged with visitors.

The number of strangers introduced to its privileges under the 4th Rule of Reading Room Regulations, has been large beyond precedent—reaching over fifteen hundred during the year.

An edition of two thousand copies of the Constitution and By-Laws, as last amended, was published in the month of February. Copies of this little pamphlet, wherein the rights and privileges of members are clearly defined, may at all times be obtained on application at the Librarian's desk.

The course of miscellaneous Lectures in progress at the date of last Annual Report, was successfully completed in the order of the published programme, as arranged by the preceding Board ; closing February 14th, with a valedictory by Hon. Edward Bates of St. Louis. (See Appendix B.)

In addition to the usual Winter Course, a single Lecture was delivered at the Melodeon, on Friday Evening, April 21st, by Henry A. Homes, Esq., late of the American legation at Constantinople, on the "Causes and history of the late difficulties between Russia and Turkey."

This Lecture, although interesting, was but thinly attended, and its success was not such as to encourage further departures from established usage.

The refining influence of Lectures of an elevated character is admitted by all. They furnish food for after reflection, and the information communicated in this way often produces a more lasting impression on the mind, than when conveyed through the medium of books. The permanent establishment of this useful auxiliary, was among the cherished objects of the early founders of the Institution; and the eminent success attending the later courses carried through under its auspices, while reflecting honor on the Association, has been at the same time highly creditable to the intellectual taste of community.

To meet public expectation in this matter, and to maintain, if possible, the high reputation already attained, have been objects of deep solicitude with your present Board.

Invitations were accordingly extended at an early day, and specific appointments secured with the following distinguished gentlemen, to appear in the course of the present winter : Hon. Horace Mann, President of Antioch

College, Ohio; George W. Curtis, Esq. New York; Rev. E. L. Magoon, New York; Rev. Charles B. Parsons, Louisville, Kentucky; Parke Godwin, Esq. New York; Rev. Thomas Starr King, Boston; Bayard Taylor, Esq. New York; Rev. John Pierpont, Boston.

The course was brilliantly opened on Tuesday evening, November 28th, with an Introductory by Hon. Horace Mann, delivered at the Melodeon to an overflowing house. Mr. Mann was followed on Tuesday evening, December 5th, by

George W. Curtis, Esq. New York—Subject, “Success.”

December 12th—Rev. E. L. Magoon, New York—Subject, “Western Civilization.”

December 19th—Rev. Charles B. Parsons, Louisville, Kentucky—Subject, “The Glory, Shame, and probable Destiny of the Republic.”

The course will be completed in the following order:

January 19th—Parke Godwin, Esq. New York—Subject, “The future Republic.”

January 16th—Bayard Taylor, Esq. New York—Subject, “India.”

January 23d—Bayard Taylor, Esq. New York—Subject, “The Philosophy of Travel.”

January 30th—Rev. Thomas Starr King, Boston—Subject, “Socrates.”

February 6th—Bayard Taylor, Esq. New York—Subject “The Animal Man.”

February 13th—(Valedictory,) Rev. John Pierpont, Boston—Subject, (a Poem,) “The Golden Calf.”

The attendance on each evening has been very large, and but for the limited capacity of the Lecture Hall, it is believed the course would yield a handsome revenue. As

it is, it gives promise of being considerably more than self-sustaining.

Encouraged by assurances of support in the enterprise, received from a few early and tried friends of the Association, who have ever manifested a willingness to aid in carrying out any measures calculated to promote its glory and extend the sphere of its usefulness—your Board, in the month of June last, decided to organize a new auxiliary department, which has been denominated the Department of Classes.

The matter was placed in the charge of a Standing Committee, whose duties are fully defined in the resolution of their appointment.

Your Board are gratified in being able to state, that the experiment has thus far proved entirely successful ; and to the well directed energy and zeal of the Class Committee, the lasting obligations of the Association are due for having established on a permanent basis a new and valuable auxiliary, which is destined at no distant day to become one of its most attractive features.

The present Board have no wish to appropriate to themselves the credit of originating this measure, it having been a favorite project with those in official management ten years ago ; and its adoption was strongly urged in the seventh Annual Report.

Two classes were at that time formed for instruction in the French Language, but the encouragement extended to the enterprise was not such as to warrant its continuance.

The only merit now claimed, is that of having restored to vigorous life this latent germ, from which we may one day hope to reap an abundant harvest of golden fruits.

Arrangements having been made for the temporary use

of the room occupied by the Ohio Historical and Philosophical Society, in College Building, the following classes were formed on the evening of October 2nd :

French Language under charge of Prof. A. Brunner.

German Language, " " " S. Veith.

Mathematics, " " " C. E. Matthews.

At the same time a class was formed for the study of Book Keeping, under the charge of Professor R. M. Bartlett at his rooms in Masonic Hall; and a class in Penmanship under the charge of Professor W. Thompson at his rooms on the corner of Eighth and Walnut.

All these classes are now in successful operation, and give promise of hopeful results.

Of the gentlemen named as Instructors of the various classes, it is quite unnecessary to speak in terms of commendation. They are all well known, and have long occupied the very front rank in their several professions. In behalf of the Association, the Board would take this occasion to tender acknowledgments for their very prompt acceptance of appointments on such terms as can, at best, yield only very meagre pecuniary returns.

It would seem superfluous to dwell on the great benefits which this system of instruction will confer on those of our younger members whose early educational advantages have been limited, but who are yet anxious to devote the few hours stolen from an exacting vocation to such mental culture as will fit and prepare them to "act well their part" in the great drama of life.

It was designed to make a beginning only, this year, but once commenced, the system may be extended without limit. We would earnestly commend this infant department to the watchful guardianship of those who will succeed us.

Financial abstract of the year as follows :

Aggregate Revenue, -----	\$ 9,501 93
Expenditures,-----	9,478 77

Balance in the Treasury at this date 23 16. This amount, with good uncollected dues, it is confidently believed will cancel all existing liabilities.

For a detailed exhibit of both receipts and expenditures, reference is made to the Annual Report of the Treasurer, which will be read to you this evening. It will be seen that the balance in the Treasury at the beginning of the year was \$257 62 ; but beyond this and the amount subsequently realized from uncollected bills, the further sum of about \$800 was required to discharge liabilities existing at that date. This trifling indebtedness resulted from the unavoidably large expenditures of the two preceding years. During that period the rooms of the Association were refitted and refurnished in a style of tasteful but unostentatious elegance, befitting the home of a great public spirited Society. The cost of these improvements, as in all similar undertakings, was largely in advance of the original estimates—perhaps greater than was sanctioned by immediate means and a due regard to prudent economy. It is believed, however, that full value was received for every dollar expended, and that the great and paramount object in view—a harmonious completeness of detail, could not have been attained by smaller appropriations. The means for its accomplishment were chiefly derived from the avails of Life Memberships, and the work was carried through without the solicitation of a single dollar in the way of donations, and without entailing on the Society the burthen of an onerous debt. For years to come, it is thought that no further diversion of income from appropri-

ate channels will be necessary, beyond a small annual expenditure for keeping the rooms in present repair.

By the mournful calamity which befell the steamer Arctic, on her return passage from Liverpool, in the month of September—the harrowing details of which are still fresh in the recollection of all—our mercantile community was deprived of one of its most valued members, in the person of Mr. Charles G. Springer. The deceased was largely identified with this Association in its earliest infancy, and to the close of his life was one of its best friends and most liberal benefactors. Appropriate resolutions of respect and sympathy were passed by the Board at one of its stated meetings; and a copy of the minute will be presented this evening, for a place on the permanent records. (See Appendix A.)

Your Board have thus endeavored to lay before you a detailed statement of the more important transactions and events of the year.

This closing official duty is performed with a feeling of pleasure not altogether unmixed with sadness—pleasure, in the anticipated relief from an onerous burthen of a public trust—and sadness from the reflection, that, with a portion of their number at least, a bond of relationship is forever sundered, and that the many happy hours of a long term of service, will henceforth live in the mind only as a pleasant reminiscence.

If their administration has been signalized by no brilliant achievement or adventitious success, your Board humbly trust that their labors have not been altogether vain; and that the year just past, will be remembered as one of peaceful prosperity, and of sure though noiseless progress.

To build still higher on the stable foundations already

laid—to urge the Association forward in the path of glory already marked out, have been their aim and purpose; not to venture on untried expedients, or to introduce visionary and impracticable theories.

Through the means of an enlightened and comprehensive policy, added to great administrative energy and official zeal, the YOUNG MEN'S MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION of Cincinnati, has attained a position of commanding eminence from which she may look proudly back upon a past career of prosperity chequered by few reverses, and forward to a future of unclouded hope.

But past successes should only serve to stimulate us to greater endeavors. Her mission is but half accomplished. The seed has been sown and has taken deep root, but the perennial fruits of refined taste and an elevated standard of mercantile intelligence, can only be enjoyed in full fruition by the Cincinnati of a distant future.

From our advanced position of present achievement, the horizon of our scene of labor becomes enlarged before us, and with increased means have come increased responsibilities. Let those who are seeking your suffrages to-night remember, that much, very much, will be expected of them—let them also be admonished, that any position in this Board while a post of honor, is at the same time a post of labor, and none should be permitted to taste the one who is unwilling to perform the other.

What determined energy can accomplish, even in the brief period of twenty years, we have already seen in the results of the labors of our predecessors in office. Ours be it the duty to emulate their bright example, and to carry out the work so nobly begun. Then, when another cycle shall have been completed—when those who were instru-

mental in its foundation shall have advanced far into Life's shadowy evening, this temple of learning will continue to tower in our midst, a lasting monument to the taste, liberality, and public spirit of the young mercantile men of Cincinnati.

By order and in behalf of the Board.

H. D. HUNTINGTON, *President.*

C. P. MARSH, *Rec. Secretary.*

# TREASURER'S REPORT, FOR 1854.

YOUNG MEN'S MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, IN ACCOUNT WITH ROSS CHENOWETH, TREASURER.

# APPENDIX.

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## A

[Extract from the official Minutes of the Directory.]

DIRECTORS' ROOM Y. M. M. LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. }  
SATURDAY EVENING, December 2, 1854. }

At a stated meeting of the Board of Directors, it was

*Resolved*, That, in common with the whole community, this Board have received with sentiments of profound regret and heartfelt sorrow, the mournful intelligence of the loss, by the terrible calamity of the *Arctic*, of our fellow member and fellow citizen, CHARLES G. SPRINGER, Esq.

*Resolved*, That while in the death of Mr. SPRINGER, the mercantile community mourns the loss of one of its brightest ornaments, the poor of a friend whose hand was ever open to the calls of charity, and society of a high toned gentleman, the blow has fallen with peculiar weight upon this Association: the deceased was one of its original founders—its Treasurer during the first two years of its existence—one of the most liberal contributors to its building fund in 1845—a life member, and a life-long and true friend.

*Resolved*, That with no wish to invade the sanctuary of private sorrow, or to probe anew the wounds of grief, this Board claims the privilege of adding this humble tribute to the memory of the departed, and of mingling its sympathies in the common bereavement.

*Resolved*, That copies of this minute be transmitted to the family and surviving partners of the deceased, and be presented at the next general meeting of the Association, for a place on its permanent records.

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## B

### Lecture Programme Complete—Winter Course of 1853-54.

1853, November 22—Hon. JOHN McLEAN. Introductory—Subject: “Government; more especially our own Government, as regards the object of its formation, its relations, and tendencies.”

“ “ 24—Rev. THOS. H. STOCKTON, Baltimore. Subject—“Common Sense.”

“ “ 29—Rev. E. H. CHAPIN, New York. Subject—“ Implements.”

“ December 6—E. P. WHIPPLE, Esq., Boston. Subject—“ Eccentric Character.”

“ “ 8—E. P. WHIPPLE, Esq. Subject—“ Heroic Character.”

“ “ 13—HENRY L. ELLSWORTH, Esq., Lafayette, Indiana. Subject—“ The Hazards of Life.”

“ “ 20—Rev. HENRY GILES, Bucksport, Maine. Subject—“ The Immortality of Shakespeare’s Genius.”

“ “ 27—ORVILLE DEWEY, D. D., Berkshire, Mass. Subject—“ The Material World as the School of Human Culture.”

“ “ 29—ORVILLE DEWEY, D. D. Subject—“ American Freedom in its Individual and Social aspects and relations.”

1854, January 10—Hon. E. LANE, Sandusky. Subject—“The Moravian Missions in Ohio.”

“ “ 17—Hon. SAMUEL F. VINTON, Gallipolis, Ohio. Subject—“ The Influence of Commerce on our System of Government.”

“ “ 24—Col. WILLIAM SCHOULER, Cincinnati. Subject—“ Influence of the Mechanic Arts on American Progress.”

“ “ 31—Rev. THOMAS STARR KING, Boston. Subject—“ Substance and Show, or Facts and Forces.”

“ February 14—Hon. EDWARD BATES, St. Louis. Subject—“ The Mississippi Valley.”